

# INDIANA STATE POLICE

INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH  
100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2259

[www.state.in.us/isp](http://www.state.in.us/isp)

January 2, 2008

TO: ISP Laboratory Evidence Contributors  
FROM: Indiana State Police Laboratory  
SUBJECT: Submission of Standards in Forensic DNA Cases

The submission of DNA standards from all individuals thought to be involved in a case can significantly increase the speed and efficiency of analyzing a DNA case. Blood samples in purple top tubes or oral swabs are the preferred sample types. Other types of samples are not recommended, but may be submitted if a preferred standard is not available.

Whenever possible, a suspect standard should be submitted with crime scene evidence. Having a suspect's convicted offender sample in CODIS does not replace the requirement for a new evidentiary suspect standard for comparison to crime scene evidence. Matches generated by CODIS database searches, are for investigative leads and probable cause information only. Evidentiary standards are needed from the individuals for criminal prosecution.

It is often critical that the victim's standard or other elimination standard be submitted with the crime scene evidence. DNA is stable and can remain on items for some time. Even though the perpetrator may have touched an object, there may be DNA on the crime scene evidence from the person who touches it every day (ex. a car steering wheel). The DNA profile resulting from that object will often be a mixture of at least those two individuals. Having DNA profiles from possible contributors will allow the analyst to be more definitive in their interpretation.

The entry of an evidentiary sample DNA profile into CODIS is closely interpreted via federal rules. Primarily, only DNA profiles from crime scene samples may be entered into CODIS. By submitting, victim, suspect and elimination standards with the evidentiary samples CODIS can be used as it is intended. It is also essential that the location where the sample was collected and the 'owner' of the sample (ex. from victim's house or from suspect's car) are made known to lab personnel.

Please submit victim, suspect and appropriate elimination standards with crime scene DNA evidence when possible. Standard samples do not count against item limits established in the ISP evidence tier submission guidelines. Your cooperation can significantly impact the turn around time of your case.

Paul Misner

*Paul Misner*  
Biology Section Supervisor

08/LabDiv/001